

Influenza Surveillance Update - Week #6 (ending Feb 14, 2009)

Current Influenza Activity

Since July 1st, 2008, 241 influenza detections have been reported to Public Health (214 influenza A, 25 influenza B, and 2 influenza A & B). Twenty influenza A's have been sub-typed as influenza A/H1 and 7 influenza A's sub-typed as A/H3. Emergency department visits for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) remain at low levels. Currently, influenza activity in California remains at low levels.

Surveillance Indicator	FY 2008-09			FY 2007-08		Previous 3-Year Average	
	Week 6	Week 5	Total To-Date	Week 6	Total To-Date	Week 6	Total To-Date
Number of influenza-positive laboratory reports	78	61	163	175	782	78	706
Percent of emergency department visits for ILI*	3%	2%		4%		4%	
Percent of deaths with pneumonia and/or influenza	7%	7%		11%		10%	
Absenteeism - elementary schools	4%	4%		6%		6%	
Absenteeism - middle/high schools	9%	8%		7%		7%	

Figure 1. Influenza Detection Reports by Type and Week, FY2008-09

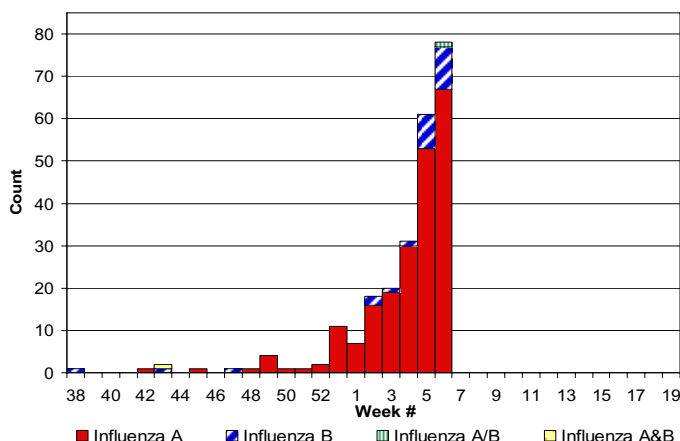
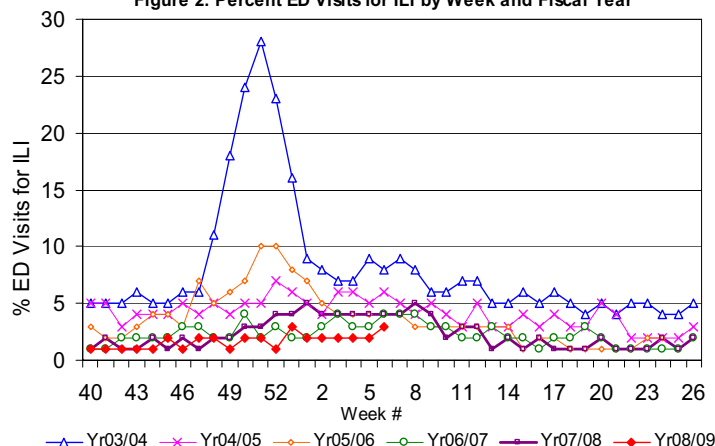


Figure 2. Percent ED Visits for ILI by Week and Fiscal Year



Viral Isolation and Characterization Since July 1, 2008, 241 positive influenza detections have been reported to Public Health. Of these, 89% have been influenza A. The Public Health Laboratory was able to perform sub-typing on selected specimens collected. Among these, the Public Health Laboratory was able to sub-type and characterize 20 as influenza A/H1 and 7 as influenza A/H3. Additionally, several specimens have been sent to the California Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory for strain typing. Of these, four specimen results of strain typing have been reported as A/Brisbane/59/2007-like.

Influenza Detection Reporting Local healthcare providers are encouraged to report positive influenza detections to Public Health. Please fax a confidential morbidity report (CMR) or patient laboratory results to PHL at (619) 692-8558. Please indicate the vaccination status, complications, and/or known recent travel history of the patient. Thank you!

Severe Pediatric Influenza Case Reporting California Department of Public Health Service has requested enhanced surveillance for severe pediatric influenza. A severe pediatric influenza case is defined as: age 0-17 years, AND a clinical syndrome consistent with influenza or complications of influenza, AND confirmation by laboratory testing for influenza, AND NICU/ICU hospitalization and/or death. Please report severe pediatric influenza to Community Epidemiology Branch by fax (619) 515-6644 or telephone (619) 515-6620. Forms may also be accessed from the County website www.sdepi.org by selecting 'Disease Information for Health Care Providers'.

Additional Influenza Resources

Vaccine information from the San Diego County Immunization Branch: www.sdiz.org

Find a flu vaccine clinic location in your area: <http://www.sdchip.org>

CA State's weekly influenza update: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/vrdl/Pages/CaliforniaInfluenzaSurveillanceProject.aspx>

CDC's 2007-08 influenza season information <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/season.htm>

Influenza surveillance is a collaborative effort between San Diego County Public Health Services' Community Epidemiology, Public Health Laboratory, Immunization Branch, and our medical community partners.

**Community Epidemiology (619) 515-6620, email EpiDiv.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov
County of San Diego | Health & Human Services Agency | Public Health Services**